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Agenda item 18 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.31)*]

2017/29. Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, by which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted during the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,

Recalling its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2013/20 of 24 July 2013 and 2016/21 of 27 July 2016,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Please recycle

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on (*a*) lessons learned in developing productive capacities from countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council, (*b*) monitoring the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the list of least developed countries, (*c*) a review of the criteria used in the identification of the least developed countries, in preparation for the triennial review of the category in 2018, and the outline of a multi-year programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria, (*d*) a review of the recognition and use of the least developed country category by the entities of the United Nations development system, (*e*) an update of the least developed country category graduation platform for improving the understanding of and preparation for graduation from the least developed country category, and (*f*) the review of total official support for sustainable development;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twentieth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2018 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly, as stated in its resolution 67/221, for graduating countries to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to pursue its methodological work to measure progress in and identify obstacles to the development of productive capacities in developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 76 (*k*) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[4] and to share the outcome of its work as an input to the impact assessments of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the monitoring reports of the Committee on countries graduating or graduated from the least developed country category;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the World Trade Organization, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the regional commissions, among others, to provide inputs to the impact assessments prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to further contribute to the smooth transition of countries graduating from the least developed country category, highlighting those entities' operational activities relating to building productive capacity in the least developed countries and the possible impact of graduation on such activities;

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[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33).

[4] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

8. *Reiterates* that treating the least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour and that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[2] into development policies, and in this regard encourages the entities of the United Nations development system to consistently apply the least developed country category in the provision of international support measures, including through the adoption of common guidelines in this regard;

9. *Also reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly to the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations and international financial institutions to contribute to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

10. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize resource allocations to the least developed countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016;

11. *Also requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

12. *Invites* the Committee to brief the Council every four years, in the year preceding the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, on how the United Nations development system is applying the least developed country category;

13. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2017